



CalAIM NCQA Accreditation Workgroup Charter

October 2019

Background

California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) is a multi-year DHCS initiative to implement overarching policy changes across all Medi-Cal delivery systems, with the objectives of:

1. Reducing variation and complexity across the delivery systems;
2. Identifying and managing member risk and need through population health management strategies; and
3. Improving quality outcomes and driving delivery system transformation through value-based initiatives, modernization of systems, and payment reform.

Purpose

DHCS conducts annual compliance reviews of all Medi-Cal managed care health plans (MCPs) but does not currently deem¹ the results of the reviews to an accrediting entity, although federal regulations permit the state to do so.

Additionally, DHCS does not currently require Medi-Cal MCPs to be accredited by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Out of 26 MCPs in the state, 12 plans currently have NCQA accreditation, and four are pending an accreditation visit.

This workgroup will provide input on topics related to the standards and processes of requiring all MCPs to obtain NCQA accreditation, including consideration of the proposed accreditation requirements.

Workgroup Scope and Objectives

The CalAIM NCQA Accreditation Workgroup is an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on DHCS' proposals. Workgroup members will be asked to participate in a series of discussions on the proposals and:

- Offer feedback on the challenges, opportunities, and considerations regarding NCQA accreditation and DHCS' proposed timeline for implementation;
- Review and provide input on inclusion of the NCQA Medicaid (MED) module;
- Review and provide input on the use of the NCQA LTSS distinctions survey;
- Consider the challenges, opportunities, and considerations regarding DHCS deeming MCP compliance review to NCQA; and
- Discuss opportunities for redirecting DHCS resources currently dedicated to annual health plan audits.

¹ Deeming is defined as using information obtained from a national accreditation review to satisfy mandatory external quality review activities.

Deliverables

- DHCS will provide an agenda, written proposals, key questions, and relevant discussion materials for review in advance of each workgroup meeting.
- DHCS will provide meeting notes and a summary of each workgroup discussion to all workgroup members and other key interested parties.
- Other deliverables may be identified and developed during the course of the workgroup process.

Workgroup Requirements and Expectations

- Workgroup members must commit to attend several in-person meetings in Sacramento beginning in January 2019;
- Members are expected to participate in person—all meetings will be held in Sacramento;
- The workgroups will be a solution-focused, collegial environment for respectfully expressing different points of view;
- The workgroup meetings will be a mechanism for direct communication and problem solving with DHCS;
- Members may be asked to provide and/or present information to the workgroup;
- DHCS will not pay a per diem or compensate members for expenses, including travel and related costs to attend meetings; and
- All meetings will be held in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Meeting Schedule

The CalAIM NCQA Accreditation workgroup meetings will take place on the following dates. All meetings will be held in the 1st floor conference room at 1700 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95811. Meetings will not start before 10:00 a.m. or end past 4:00 p.m. Agendas and times for each meeting will be finalized closer to the meeting dates.

- Tuesday, January 21st, 2020
- Friday, February 21st, 2020

Lead DHCS Staff

Sarah Brooks, Deputy Director, Health Care Delivery Systems, DHCS

Sarah.Brooks@dhcs.ca.gov

Nathan Nau, Chief, Managed Care Quality and Monitoring, DHCS

Nathan.Nau@dhcs.ca.gov